

Plan for pursuing land goals endorsed

By John Chaffee
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DUXBURY — Selectmen last night endorsed a five-year plan for implementing four land and recreation goals.

The 70-page plan, written by a nine-member committee, is required by the state if the town is to be eligible for grants for aquifer protection, land acquisition, recreation development or waterfront enhancement.

Committee Chairwoman Patricia Loring said the plan has received conditional approval from the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

The plan was designed to reflect the views of the voters who participated in a long-range planning survey in December 1995. Twenty-six percent of the town's registered voters filled out the questionnaire.

The four goals for "acquisition, protection and management" of undeveloped land are:

- Protect the town's drinking water supply.
- Protect and enhance natural resources and ecosystems.
- Improve recreational opportunities with minimum impact on the environment.

Duxbury

- Preserve the character of Duxbury.

The committee listed a number of specific activities to be accomplished for each goal in each of the next five years.

For example, under the goal to protect the drinking water supply, the committee recommended that by the third year money be earmarked to buy aquifer-protection property.

To help protect natural resources, the committee recommended the establishment of a town forest management committee in the first year.

To improve recreational opportunities, both a sidewalk/bike path expansion program and a harbor management plan should be developed in the first year, the committee said.

To help preserve the character of the town, the committee proposed the development in the first year of an annual award for the resident who has done the most to "promote and enhance the town's open space."

The first such award should be presented at

the annual town meeting in the second year, the committee said.

The report includes a parcel-by-parcel list of all protected land in town, including 1,571 acres controlled by the conservation commission, 137 acres by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, 37 acres by the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, 281 acres by Duxbury Beach Reservation Inc., 28 acres at the Myles Standish monument by the state Department of Environmental Management, 193 acres by the town's water department, 146 acres by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, 29 acres by the recreation department, 66 acres by the cemetery department and 166 acres by the school department.

In addition, there are 1,315 acres of farmland, cranberry bogs and golf courses under state agricultural protection.

Loring said at least one grant application has been filed under the plan: to improve Duxbury's portion of the Bay Circuit Trail.

Selectmen Chairman James Murphy hailed committee members for their "heroic efforts" in preparing the plan at little or no expense to the town, noting that other communities often hire consultants to do similar work.

Growth and development